NOTE XVIII.

ON STRIX INEXSPECTATA.

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Ornithologists will recollect that the northern part of the isle of Celebes is inhabited by a species of Barn-owl, which I described under the name of Strix Rosenbergii [1]. To judge from a very young specimen, sent from the Philippines, the species is also found in this Archipelago. I have before me eleven specimens of Strix Rosenbergii, all killed in the districts of Menado and the Minahassa [2]. They present the following measures. Wing $11^3/_4$ to $12^1/_4$ inches; point of wing $3^1/_2$ to $4^1/_2$ inches; tail $5^2/_3$ to 6 inches; tarse 32 to 36 lines; middle toe 19 lines.

As to the distinctive characteristics of this species, I stated that it resembles in general the common Barn-owl, from which, however, it may easily be distinguished by its much larger size, and the much darker tint of the upper parts. I stated moreover that the under parts are of a more rusty colour, and that the face is of a greyish rusty brown;

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1) Observations zoologiques, I, in Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor de Dierkunde, tom. 3, p. 181, and Museum des Pays-Bas, Oseaux de proie, Revue, Noctuae p. 16.

2) A twelfth specimen was nost indicated as having been brought from New-Guinea, but I do not think that the species has ever been found in this locality.

but it is to be observed, that in some specimens recently received the rusty colour of under parts and face is strongly inclined to white.

On examining a large series of birdskins collected in the northern parts of Celebes and presented to the Leyden Museum by S. C. I. W. van Musschenbroek, Esq., I was quite astonished to find, that there exists, in the Minahassa, beside Strix Rosenbergii, another large species of Barn-owl, very different as well from Strix Rosenbergii as from all the other known species. I therefore give to it the epithet of inexspectata.

In general apparance, size and distribution of colours, Strix inexspectata recalls to the mind Strix Rosenbergii, but it shows, on a close examination very different characteristics. One of the most striking of these is the shortness of the wings, occasioned by much shorter primaries which overreach the secundaries in a degree lesser than the half as it is the case in Strix Rosenbergii, as will be seen from the comparative measures of the foresaid part designated under the name of point of wing. Another very remarkable character occurs in the black bars both of the primaries and secundaries being smaller and more numerous in our new species and fading gradually away on the underside of the inner webs of the primaries, running or passing from the last to the first of these quills, the latter showing no bars at all. The ground-colour of the under side of the primaries is moreover much darker and gray with a silverish hue. The tail of Strix inexspectata is furnished with nine bars, that of Strix Rosenbergii only with five. The downy feathers of the tarsus are more developped and cover the foot down to the toes, exactly as in Strix Novae Hollandiae and castanops. The toes are somewhat shorter and much more slender. The ground colour of the upper parts is a very bright rufous and not shaked with gray, but the white spots are smaller. The ground colour of the under side of the body is as rufous as in the darkest specimens of Strix

Rosenbergii, but the face is darker and as dark as in Strix castanops and Novae Hollandiae.

I state in addition to the foregoing remarks, that in Strix inexspectata the first primary shows eight, the second nine black bars, whereas there are seven such bars on the secundaries. In Strix Rosenbergii, there are, on the contrary, only four bars on the first primary, five on the second, and four on the secundaries.

The measures of the principal parts of Strix inexspectata are as follows. Wing nine and a half inches; point of wing 20 to 24 lines; tail four inches six lines; tarsus $2^{1}/_{2}$ inches; middle toe 16 lines.